

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Week 1		
July 21	Introduction to estuaries <u>Trip</u> to Portside mudflats <u>Lab</u> on mudflat microbes and primary producers Biogeochemistry, anaerobic decomposition and electron acceptors	
22	Seagrass functions <u>Trip</u> to eelgrass meadow at Portside mudflats <u>Lab</u> on eelgrass and mobile fauna Primary production in estuaries	
23	Life in sediments, adaptations to anoxic surroundings <u>Trip</u> to South Slough mudflats <u>Lab</u> on benthic infauna <u>Presentations of research topic ideas</u>	
24	Spatial aspects of estuarine variation; estuarine modifications, etc. <u>All-day Trip</u> on Coos Bay estuary	
Week 2		
28	<u>All-day Trip</u> to South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Upland-estuarine interactions Marshes, community production, successional dynamics, and disturbance Mitigation and creation of marshes and tidal habitats Adaptations of halophytes <u>Research Topic due</u>	
29	<u>Trip</u> to Barview Wayside or Kunz Marsh Estuarine management: resource and habitat utilization vs conservation and restoration	
30	Data crunching, analysis and discussion	
31	Discussion of class trip and lab results Course evaluations Review FINAL EXAM	

Reading assignments

Grading	
Research topic	25 %
Final Exam	50 %
Participation in discussions, field trips and lab exercises	25 %

The research topic assignment, due on Monday July 28th, is to be a 2-3 page summary of a research project that you would like to perform, if you had the time, money, personnel, and support facilities to carry out the project to completion. The topic can be chosen from material covered in the course, the textbook, or issues of local or regional importance. In several pages, you should: specifically indicate the research topic, briefly develop enough background information to indicate why this is an important topic and how you have arrived at the specific question or questions you are addressing, indicate how you will study the topic (what will you study, how will you sample, what methods would you use, etc.), and speculate as to what you predict you would find out. Please feel free to use assigned readings and other materials available in the library to help you define a topic and determine how to study it, and to cite those readings or materials in your written copy that you will hand in.

The final exam will cover material presented in the course, and may well utilize data gathered by the class in some questions. The emphasis will be on understanding estuarine systems, interpreting information gathered about various estuarine components, and determining what appropriate studies should be performed to address questions of interest.